

Muttahida, PPP flay hanging

By Our Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: Pakistan People's Party and Muttahida Qaumi Movement on Thursday flayed the execution on the orders of the military court and said since the petition challenging these courts was pending in the Supreme Court, the verdict should not have been implemented till the disposal of the plea.

Leader of the opposition in Sindh Assembly Nisar Khuhro, when asked to comment on the execution at a news briefing, said the event was shocking.

He said the Supreme Court in which the setting up of military courts had been challenged should take suo moto action to provide interim relief till it gives its verdict on the petition.

"We are shocked that when the capital punishment is being eased out in other countries, Mian Nawaz Sharif is encouraging it in Pakistan. Even the sanctity of Ramazan has not been taken into consideration," he said, adding "it will set a bad precedent".

Senators Nasreen Jaleel and Aftab Shaikh and leader of the MQM parliamentary party in Sindh Assembly Dr Farooq Sattar also deplored the implementation of the death sentence by a military court.

Senator Nasreen described it a "murder of democratic norms and human rights."

They said as the petition challenging the setting up of military courts was pending in Supreme Court, no decision be executed.

If death sentences were executed and the SC gave a verdict against the military courts, who would bring back the persons executed, said Senator Shaikh.

LHRLA: The Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA), a human rights NGO, condemning the death sentence awarded by a military court to a 14-year-old boy, has said it was against the law of the land and the international convention signed by the country.

The LHRLA said the death penalty given the military court was against the Convention of the Rights of Child as well as the Sindh Children's Act.

The LHRLA pointed out that the Article 37-A of the convention, signed by Pakistan in 1992, says "no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age."

The NGO says the parents of the boy, Mohammad Ali, had informed the LHRLA that none of their witnesses were called. Even the owner of the carpet factory where the boy used to work was not called as the carpet factory owner maintains that the boy was present in the factory at the time of the incident.

The NGO has urged all the organisations working for human rights, particularly for the rights of the child, to protest against the sentence.